

DISCUSSION OF THE AMEDMENT

Claims 1-24 are active in the present application. Claims 12 and 13 are currently withdrawn from prosecution. Independent Claim 1 is amended herein to state that the self-cleaning surface is present on the entire surface of the textile sheet. Support for the amendment is found on page 13, lines 5-10.

No new matter is added by this amendment.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for entering the Amendment filed on October 16, 2007. Applicants further thank the Examiner for acknowledging that the Amendment overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as set forth in the Office Action of July 31, 2007.

The claims presently stand rejected as obvious over Kerins (US 6,638,603) and Keller (EP 1153987). Amended Claim 1 presented herein is drawn to a process for producing a self-cleaning surface on a coated textile sheet. The self-cleaning surface is present on the entire surface of the textile sheet of amended Claim 1. Applicants submit that the process of Claim 1 is different from the processes of Kerins and Keller and is not obvious over the prior art applied by the Office, i.e., Kerins and Keller.

Applicants submit that the arguments submitted in the Amendment of October 16, 2007 are sufficient for demonstrating the patentability of the presently claimed invention at least because Kerins and Keller are drawn to entirely different inventions. For example, Kerins discloses water-sensitive materials whereas Keller is drawn to a process for producing poorly wettable surfaces. As stated before, it is inconceivable that one of ordinary skill in the art would modify a process for producing a water-sensitive product using a process for producing a poorly wettable surface as guidance.

Notwithstanding the Office's rejection and Applicants' arguments of record in this case, Applicants amend Claim 1 herein to clarify that the self-cleaning surface is present on the entire surface of the coated textile sheet of the present claims. Applicants submit the combination of Kerins and Keller cannot render obvious the presently claimed subject matter at least for the reason that the surface of the article disclosed in Kerins is discontinuously hydrophobic. Thus, Kerins does not disclose any substrate whose entire surface is covered with a particular surface. Instead, in Kerins the prior art article must be one that has a

discontinuous surface coating. Applicants submit that the process of the present claims is exclusive of the process and/or articles of Kerins due to the fact that an article entirely covered with a surface having certain water-resistant characteristics is exclusive of an article or process that produces an article having a surface with discontinuous water-resistant properties.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and the passage of all now-pending claims to issue.


Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)



Stefan U. Koschmieder, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,238